

From: Bev Riter [bevriter@gte.net]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2002 11:34 AM
To: McLaughlin, Craig D
Subject: Re: Isolation and quarantine rules for Dec. 10 hearing

Hi Craig,

Thanks for sending the proposed rules for isolation and quarantine. It seems that the number of people affected will have a big impact on how isolation/quarantine is carried out. I can see a challenge if a family member needs isolated and there are small children or others with compromised immune systems living in small spaces.

If a large number of people need isolated in a facility, will the facility be properly equipped for such, and what about staff?

Having worked in TB control, I know some clients can be challenging to work with! Am glad to see the new WAC re enforcement. I've had an active multiple drug resistant TB patients run away, potentially exposing others. After spending much time finding him, we utilized the sheriff's dept to accompany us in getting him and transporting him to the hospital. Once there, we had to hire a guard to see that he didn't escape again. What is the potential for this to happen in a bioterrorism event and who will pay for the additional protection needed?

The American Red Cross has the capacity to set up shelters, however, will not open shelters unless the workers are safe. Directives from Red Cross at National Headquarters state, "Disaster Services at national headquarters must be contacted prior to any service delivery in quarantined area to determine what services can be offered and how they can be delivered, based on the reason for the quarantine."

Thanks,

Beverly Riter, RN, MN
ARC Representative, Washington State Public Health Preparedness & Response
Advisory Committee